Letter From The Chair

Hello Everyone!

We are looking forward to the annual MLA meeting in May. As a reminder, the Cancer Librarians Section Business Meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 17, from 7-9 a.m. We will have a delicious breakfast, thanks to our sponsors, Jones and Bartlett Publishers, who are excited to announce that their Journal of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (JNCCN) is now fully indexed in MEDLINE and PubMed.

There are several important topics on our agenda, including the new “best websites” committee, the need to update our bylaws, and the status of the Cancer Librarians Section’s efforts to have the abstracts from cancer meetings added to the NLM Gateway. Please join us, if even for part of the meeting.

You may have noticed that several of our members have been accomplishing great things for our section. Gail Hendler and Deborah Bonelli have revised our Cancer Librarians Section brochure, and we’ll have copies at the annual meeting.

JoAnne Sparks has worked hard to plan and coordinate our section’s program at the annual meeting (Impact of Open Access (OA) Publishing, Tuesday, May 17, 2:30-4:00 p.m.).

Karen Albert and Gail Hendler have submitted a motion to Section Council requesting that the Medical Library Association actively joins our section in requesting that the major cancer-related meeting abstracts be added to either the NLM Gateway or the “Cancer” subset of PubMed.

Karen is actively collecting statements of support from physicians and researchers at our medical institutions regarding the importance of having these abstracts in a central database.

Any assistance our members can provide will greatly strengthen this initiative.

Finally, congratulations to Mark Vrabel, our Program Chair/Chair Elect, and to Heidi Heilemann, our Secretary!

We are grateful for your willingness to take on these positions of leadership.

It has been a pleasure serving as your Chair this past year. You are a wonderful group of dedicated individuals.

See you in San Antonio,
Tanya Smith, Chair

Special points of interest:
- CLS Annual Report
- CLS Business Meeting Agenda
- New Resources
- Conference Highlights
- 2005/2006 Officers List
Cancer Librarians Business Meeting

Tuesday, May 17, 2005
7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Marriott Rivercenter, Conference Room 9
Breakfast sponsored by Jones and Bartlett

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Approval of Last Year’s Business Meeting Minutes (Carolyn Bridgewater)
3. Section Chair’s Report (Tanya Smith)
4. Treasurer’s Report (Tanya Smith for Sue Felber)
5. 2005 Program Chair/Chair-Elect Report (JoAnne Sparks)
6. 2006 Program Chair Report (Mark Vrabel)
7. Section Council Report (Gail-Yvette Hendler & Margaret Vugrin)
   • Research Awards Committee (Margaret Vugrin)
8. Web Site Editor Report (Tanya Smith for Ann Marie Clark)
9. Newsletter Editor Report (Tanya Smith for Michelle Arbuckle)
10. Membership Committee Report (Margaret Vugrin)
11. Cancer Meeting Abstracts Committee (Karen Albert and Gail Hendler)
12. Section Accomplishments: 2005
   • Revised Cancer Librarians Section Brochure
   • “Best Websites” Committee established
13. Other Business
   • Continue the Online Bibliography/Annotated Bibliography/Core Cancer Library Resource List?
   • Cancer Librarians Section Bylaws need to be updated
New Resource: Radiation As A Cure For Cancer

This book chronicles the history of radiation treatment used in British Columbia throughout the twentieth century. The story begins with the acquisition of X-rays by the Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria in 1899 and the treatment of a "sarcoma" of the jaw at the Vancouver City Hospital in April 1902. The first cures using radium were described in 1910 by a retired naval surgeon at St Paul's Hospital.

The narrative is liberally referenced with source material and contains 123 black and white illustrations, personal remembrances, biographical sketches of significant individuals and Author's Notes to help guide those less familiar with the scientific aspects of the treatment.

This history serves as a unique review of how radiation treatment developed globally throughout the twentieth century, and how this compelling story has unfolded in British Columbia.

Contact BC Cancer Agency for purchasing.

Source: www.bccancer.bc.ca

New Resource: Consumers Guide to Cancer Drugs

Current knowledge of the drugs used in cancer care is critical for today's practicing nurse.

Drugs covered are described in terms of their mechanism of action, metabolism, drug interactions, laboratory effects/interference, and special considerations.

Potential toxicities, side effects, and the nursing process are detailed.

Source: amazon.ca

New Resource: Lymphedema: a breast cancer patient’s guide to prevention and healing

Women who undergo surgery for breast cancer may end up with lymphedema, a painful, visible swelling, usually of the arm. This book lays out the many options for preventing and treating the condition. Providing information on reducing lymphedema through therapy as well as exercise and self-massage, plus helpful illustrations and additional resources. It also tells encouraging stories of women who have dealt with it successfully. Updated throughout, this new edition features expanded nutrition and exercise sections and covers CAM, as well as potential future therapies being tested.

Hunter House, 2005

Source: amazon.ca
“One Stop Shopping” for Online Palliative Care Resources
http://www.caringtotheend.ca

“Whether you are a patient, a caregiver or a health care professional, this is the place to find information, tools and community resources for Palliative Care”

“Caring to the End of Life includes a problem-solving section entitled ‘I have a problem now’, which contains self-assessment tools patients and caregivers can use to determine whether their current symptoms need urgent care. In the ‘I need to know more about’ section, patients are provided with extensive information about palliative care, what to expect when you or someone you love has a terminal illness and tips for managing pain, symptoms, and side effects. The ‘Managing and Planning Ahead’ section provides tools and strategies for staying organized, keeping track of medication schedules and health care team contact information, and managing many visitors.

There is a care journal embedded in the site that allows users to save their favorite pages, so they will be easy to find on the next visit. The site also features a “one stop shopping” resource database including hundreds of community groups in the area. This unique service allows patients to conduct a search for resources in their own neighborhood, that provide useful services such as: meal delivery, home care agencies, and local support info.

Video introductions to the site functions and narration add a human touch and help guide the user through the various features of the site. This resource will support patients, caregivers and care providers during a very challenging time in the continuum of care. “In a difficult time, providing patients and caregivers with the right information and support is an essential part of patient-centred care”, says Audrey Friedman, Director of Patient Education and Survivorship.

By Erin Jones, Research Analyst, Educational Informatics. PMH

Example of a pain self-assessment tool
Two benchmarking options: partners sought

The Scientific Director of the Netherlands Cancer Institute is interested in a comparative study on the scientific output of our institute with some other oncology / cancer oriented institute(s). It should be something based on scientometrics (citation analyses). Most of the work will be completed by the Institute staff and will not be labour intensive on the participants parts.

Data collection is the crucial part and advice and feedback is needed on the references from each institute.

Any colleague who has available the full and complete reference list of publications of their institutes over the last 5 or more years (e.g. published in the Scientific Annual Report) is encouraged to participate.

Has anyone of the cancer librarians working in a specialized cancer institute (research or research+oncology hospital) done some work on benchmarking the library services?

Would anyone be interested to do a comparison with the Central Cancer Library in the Netherlands?

The Netherlands Cancer Institute is the national centre for cancer research and includes a oncology hospital, a day-care chemotherapy unit and a radiotherapy outpatient clinic.

Any colleague interested in either of these partnering opportunities is invited to email:

Suzanne Bakker
s.bakker@nki.nl

Visit the Public Relations Swap and Shop

Are you looking for new and innovative ways to market your library's services or are you stumped about how to celebrate National Medical Librarians Month (NMLM) in October?

Be sure to stop by the 2005 Swap and Shop in the MLA Connection Booth to see how your colleagues have successfully promoted their libraries. Grab a few samples to take back to your library.

Representatives from MLA's public relations consulting firm, Public Communications, Inc. (PCI), will be on hand to discuss marketing ideas. PCI will also judge the samples, and the best promotions will be announced in the May 18 issue of the MLA '05 newsletter, and upcoming MLA-FOCUS and MLA News.

Visit www.mlanet.org/resources/nml-month/ for details on the annual NMLM event.
have demonstrated their utility and appeal. However, the majority of the literature in this field continues to be published in established subscription-only journals. The NIH public access policy and other new models deserve continued promotion and evaluation.

**Background:** Until very recently, the predominant system for publishing the results of peer-reviewed medical research was the paper journal. In order to access published papers, a researcher either had to subscribe to a journal or visit a library that had bought a subscription. As publishing costs were borne by subscribers, this model is known as “user pays.” It was an effective model that worked for many years and had no real alternative. However, technological advances associated with the rise of the Internet allow a different system, in which the author pays for the costs of peer-reviewed publication on the Web. The corollary of “author pays” is that information is free to the user, in other words, “open access.”

How as a researcher do I contrast the “open access” approach to the traditional publishing model?

**Discussion:** On careful examination, the “user pays” system is deeply problematic. First, it is highly inefficient: it has been calculated that it costs the scientific community approximately $5,000 per article published compared to ~$500 in the user pays model. Second, it is fundamentally at odds with a key principle of science, which is the free flow of ideas and the widest possible dissemination of data. Third, it is inequitable: the “user pays” model depends on restricting access to freely donated medical data, some of which is lifesaving. Conversely, recent initiatives such as BioMed Central have demonstrated that “open access” is not a utopian fantasy, but a viable publishing strategy.

**Cancer Librarian’s Events @ MLA ’05**

Technology once again has provided authors, librarians, and researchers with another new and exciting information delivery option. The open access (OA) publishing model has offered scientific, technical, and medical researchers an alternative manuscript publishing option. From the publishing perspective, we have learned about the mechanics, costs, and benefits associated with the OA model. With the increasing availability of OA publications, we now would like to turn our attention to the impact OA publications are having on research, clinical care, library collections acquisition, and management workflows for technical services.

Cancer Librarians Section will co-sponsor four sessions taking place on Tuesday at 2:30. These session will consist of: “A New Publishing Model for Digital Educational Materials: Peer Review for the Health Education Assets Library (HEAL)”; “Can We See Clearly Now? What Are the Impacts of Open Access on the Vision Science Literature”; “Linking to Open Access Publications: The Library’s Role”; and “Open Access Publishing: A Researcher’s Point of View”.

**Open Access Publishing: A Researcher’s Point of View** Presented by: Andrew Vickers

**Background:** Until very recently, the predominant system for publishing the results of peer-reviewed medical research was the paper journal. In order to access published papers, a researcher either had to subscribe to a journal or visit a library that had bought a subscription. As publishing costs were borne by subscribers, this model is known as “user pays.” It was an effective model that worked for many years and had no real alternative. However, technological advances associated with the rise of the Internet allow a different system, in which the author pays for the costs of peer-reviewed publication on the Web. The corollary of “author pays” is that information is free to the user, in other words, “open access.” How as I researcher do I contrast the “open access” approach to the traditional publishing model?

**Discussion:** On careful examination, the “user pays” system is deeply problematic. First, it is highly inefficient: it has been calculated that it costs the scientific community approximately $5,000 per article published compared to ~$500 in the user pays model. Second, it is fundamentally at odds with a key principle of science, which is the free flow of ideas and the widest possible dissemination of data. Third, it is inequitable: the “user pays” model depends on restricting access to freely donated medical data, some of which is lifesaving. Conversely, recent initiatives such as BioMed Central have demonstrated that “open access” is not a utopian fantasy, but a viable publishing strategy.

**Can We See Clearly Now? What Are the Impacts of Open Access on the Vision Science Literature?** Presented by: Pamela C. Sieving

**Objective:** To determine the impact of current and proposed open access initiatives on publication patterns in the vision science literature and on global availability of this literature.

**Methods:** (A) Based on holdings of Association of Vision Science Librarians’ member libraries and ISI’s impact factor ratings, core ophthalmology, optometry, and vision research journals were identified and their participation in electronic publication and open access programs was determined; (B) Using impact factor trends, the impact of electronic publication and open access programs was examined. Three free, electronic-only journals (Molecular Vision, BMC Ophthalmology, and Journal of Vision) were examined as special cases; (C) The impact of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) public access policy was examined in this subset of the biomedical literature

**Conclusions:** Several new models for scientific communication in basic and clinical vision research exist and have demonstrated their utility and appeal. However, the majority of the literature in this field continues to be published in established subscription-only journals. The NIH public access policy and other new models deserve continued promotion and evaluation.
Linking to Open Access Publications: The Library's Role
Presented by: Anneliese Taylor, Paul Wakeford, Alan G. Daniel, Beatrice Mallek

Objective: This paper will describe the efforts of technical services and collection development staff to increase exposure to a variety of open access (OA) journals. It will also demonstrate the challenges presented by selecting and processing open access materials.

Methods: OA publishing is an important tool for reshaping the traditional publishing model of paying high prices for scholarly research results. The library has selected OA journals for inclusion in the online public access catalog for several years. Within the last year, the library increased this activity significantly due to the focus on OA publishing in the academic world. Selecting, cataloging, and linking to OA material brings a new set of challenges to libraries. This paper will discuss how the library accomplished these tasks as well as how it addressed issues ranging from verifying the authority of previously unknown publications to determining how to activate titles in linking software that only allow open access to certain sections.

Conclusions: Based on the extra steps and increased maintenance required, integrating OA journals into the technical services workflow requires more effort than traditional journals. The library plans to continue selecting and processing OA journals and therefore will spend more time working with this material type. It will address issues such as SFX linking problems and streamlining the maintenance of OA journal records.

A New Publishing Model for Digital Educational Materials: Peer Review for the Health Education Assets Library (HEAL)
Presented by: Sharon Dennis, Shona Dippie, Sebastian Uijtdehaage, Sandra McIntyre

Objective: The Health Education Assets Library (HEAL) provides free materials of the highest quality that meet the needs of health sciences educators and learners. A peer-review process and tools were developed with assistance from a national task force and incorporated into library operations. Educators with successful submissions receive a peer-reviewed publication and contribute to a new model of scholarly publishing for digital educational resources.

Methods: The HEAL peer-review process for digital educational materials is similar to that of the traditional peer-review model used by scholarly journals. The process ensures that: users of the digital library have access to high-quality materials judged relevant to health sciences education by experts in the field; faculty authors receive formal recognition for the development of digital educational materials; and the collection will continue to grow since faculty have an incentive to submit materials. Peer review is part of a multi-pronged approach for quality assurance. After rigorous preliminary screening, materials are forwarded to the appropriate review panel, assessed using a standardized instrument, and accepted for publication, accepted with modifications required, or rejected. Details of the peer-review process, its integration into the accession and cataloging workflows, and results from the first six months of the review process will be presented.

Results: A peer-review implementation plan was created by HEAL's editor-in-chief in consultation with a national task force. Existing collection development strategies, initial triage criteria, approaches to author communication, and cataloging practices were adjusted with introduction of the review system. A basic sciences review panel was the first of three planned to be established. As of February 22, 2005, the database of peer reviewers included 102 volunteers and 22 reviews were complete or underway. Both new and previous past submissions were reviewed to establish a consistent quality standard for all material published in HEAL.

Conclusions: HEAL's review process encourages academic recognition of digital educational scholarship, ensures the quality of published materials, assists members of the health sciences education community in locating the best, most suitable resources for their teaching and learning, and provides incentive for educators to publish their work via an open access forum.
Cancer Librarians Section
MLA Annual Report 2004/2005

Goal 1: Recruitment, Membership, and Leadership in the Profession

Gail Hendler revised the text and Deborah Bonelli revised the graphics of the Cancer Librarians Section brochure. The updated brochure was posted to the section’s website: http://www.selu.com/cancerlib/about.html. Hard copies of the brochure will be printed for the display at the Section Council table at MLA ’05.

Section elections were completed in February by Membership Committee Chair Margaret Vugrin. Mark Vrabel was elected Chair-Elect/Program Chair, and Heidi Heilemann was elected Secretary.

Goal 2: Life Long Learning

Program Chair JoAnne Sparks has worked with the Collection Development, Research, and Technical Services Sections to plan a section program at MLA ’05.

The program, “Impact of Open Access (OA) Publishing,” will feature invited speakers and contributed papers, and it will explore the impact OA publications are having on research, clinical care, library collections acquisition, and management workflows for technical services. This program will take place on Tuesday, May 17, from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m.

Goal 3: Advocacy

For a number of years now, the biomedical community’s published research in oncology has been negatively impacted by the elimination of cancer meeting abstracts from any centralized online database. Meeting abstracts are the first link to cutting-edge information, and often serve as the only link to specific research or new clinical findings. Unfortunately, these valuable resources, which were once available and searchable through NCI's Cancerlit database, are no longer accessible through any reliable online database.

Gail Hendler and Karen Albert prepared a motion asking Section Council to support the section’s request that the National Library of Medicine included major cancer conference abstracts in either the NLM Gateway or the “Cancer” subset of PubMed.

Ms. Hendler submitted the motion to Section Council in April 2005, and it has been placed on the agenda for the MLA Board’s May meeting.

Ms. Albert will request assistance in collecting evidence of the importance of conference abstracts to cancer care and research at the section’s business meeting in May and via the section’s email discussion list.
Goal 4: Creating and Communicating Our Knowledge

The section published one issue of its newsletter in fall 2004 and distributed it to section members via the section’s email discussion list. It was also posted to the section’s website. The spring edition of the newsletter is expected to be published in late April 2005. Michelle Arbuckle is the section’s newsletter editor, and Ann Marie Clark is the editor and manager of the section’s website.

Tanya Smith prepared a written transcript of an audio taped interview of Marie Harvin describing the creation of the Cancer Librarians Section. Ms. Clark added a copy of the transcript to the section’s website in March 2005, and Ms. Smith sent the audio-tape to MLA to be archived.

Members of the Cancer Librarians Section utilized the section’s email discussion list on numerous occasions to obtain assistance from other members and to make announcements of interest to the rest of the section.

A group of section members will work on developing a core list of cancer-related web sites for consumers and for cancer librarians to post on the section’s web site.

This committee will identify the focus and targeted audience of the lists, develop criteria for inclusion, identify quality web sites that meet the criteria, and set up a process for ongoing review and updating of the lists. This project will be discussed at the section business meeting.

Motion:

This report is informational and requires no action by the Board of Directors.

Committees:

Meeting Abstracts Committee:
Gail Hendler and Committee Chair Karen Albert

Membership Committee:
Committee Chair Margaret Vugrin

Newsletter Committee:
Editor Michelle Arbuckle

Program Planning Committee:
Program Chair JoAnne Sparks

Section Brochure Committee:
Debbie Bonelli, Ann Marie Clark, Margaret Vugrin, and Committee Chair Gail Hendler

Website Committee:
Kimberly Lyons-Mitchell, Tanya Smith, Isabel Sulimanoff, and Committee Chair Ann Marie Clark

Submitted by Tanya R. Smith, Chair
Volume 37, Spring Edition

Articles due October 7, 2005 for Fall 2005 Edition

Newsletter Editor:
Michelle Arbuckle
Michelle.Arbuckle@uhn.on.ca

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Calling All Writers!

Did you see an amazing presentation at MLA ’05?

Heard about a new book that everyone should have?

Get a promotion and want to spread the news?

Then write an article for the Fall Newsletter!

Please forward on your ideas to michelle.arbuckle@uhn.on.ca

Deadline: October 7, 2005

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